

No. 61 - The Capitol Post: House & Senate Chamber Update

M. D. Millsap

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IN MEMORIAM

Our friend, colleague and Capitol Group member, Tom Ramsay, has passed away. His service will be Friday July 22nd at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon.



Chairman Tom Ramsay
State Representative
Mt. Vernon
1992 - 2003

From his son, Mark Ramsay

Dad's Obituary:

Thomas (Tom) Donald Ramsay, the former State Representative, former Chairman of the Texas Ethics Commission, former MVIDS School Board Member, former banker, Mt. Vernon real estate investor & broker, Mt. Vernon Tiger super-fan, loving husband, brother, father, uncle, and grandfather passed away at the age of 82 in his Franklin County home on Saturday, July 9, 2022 surrounded by loving family.

Born in 1939 in the first Mt Vernon hospital located on Main Street just east of the Square, Tom Ramsay was reared in his beloved East Texas

hometown. A 1958 MVHS graduate, he was an All-District Lineman for the Tigers and went on to play college football for a year at Arlington State University, later transferring to SMU where he completed his business degree.

Working in Dallas for Harris-Seybold where he out-sold everyone in the company in 1969, he later moved on to Don Meredith's investment firm, First of Texas.

In the midst of his Dallas work experience, he met his wife, Laurie, when she noticed him by the pool while moving into a new apartment complex on Gaston Avenue. Making note of which apartment he went into, later that afternoon she knocked on his door to ask if she could have a spare closet rod, having "broken" her own. We're not sure if she actually had broken her own closet rod, but if you could see her closet now, the story is believable. They were married within six months.

But Tom couldn't wait to get back to Mt Vernon. He helped initiate the Tall Tree lake development. Soon after that, he got into other varied real estate ventures. He brought the Sonic to Mt Vernon, the Dairy Queen, Dandy Donuts, and Dandy Mart 1 & 2 (now currently a nail salon and Exxon). He helped, along with John Wilhite, to develop the residential housing on Park Lane. Tom drove down to Tyler and talked to Mr. Brookshires to convince him that one of his grocery stores would be a success in Mt Vernon. Tom built a facility for them for them to rent. It wasn't long before the success of Brookshires proved the need for their own building. Currently, the Mt. Vernon Brookshires is one of their most profitable stores outside of Tyler.

Bringing a second bank to Mt Vernon, Franklin National Bank (currently Prosperity Bank), Tom served on its board for many years.

But another position dear to his heart, the Mt Vernon School Board, spearheaded his direction into politics. He saw changes that needed to be made at the State Legislative level for the benefit of Texas children. He ran for the office of State Representative in 1992 and won. He served in this capacity until 2003. During that time, he served as Chairman of County Affairs. With the help of Governor Ann Richards, Tom brought the Lowe's Distribution Center to Franklin County. When TxDOT said it would take one year to bring an access road to Lowes, Tom called Governor Richards. The access road was built in two months.

After Tom left the State Legislature in 2003, it wasn't long before the Governor of Texas appointed him to the Ethics Commission. He was appointed to two four-year terms, serving one of those years as Chairman.

Throughout his political career, he remained a loyal Rotarian to the Mt Vernon chapter in which his father had been a founding member. Tom was also a Paul Harris Fellow. Additionally, he served on the Industrial Foundation of Franklin County.

Because Tom's four children went through the Mt Vernon public school system, he is one of the biggest promoters of Mt Vernon, including its sports and the education of its youth. He has left a lasting legacy. And, with Tom gone, someone is going to have to step up to yell at refs from the stands at the Don Meredith Stadium during home football games.

He is survived by his wife Laurie, and their four children and spouses: Michael and Diane Ramsay of Mt Pleasant; Mark Ramsay and Brian Corkins of Dallas; Allison and Ryan Higgins soon to be of Mt Vernon; and Jordan and Brooke Ramsay of Mt Vernon.

Tom loved his family. Along with his four children, he was blessed with 15 grandchildren: Rusti, Gabe and his wife Sara, Kade, Tallon and Raif Ramsay; Andrew, Rebekah, Rachel, Joseph, Sarah, and Hannah Higgins; Samuel, Roy, Ruth and Naomi Ramsay. And Tom is preceded in death by his grandchild Isaac Higgins.

Funeral services will be on Friday, July 22, 2022, at 2:00 pm at the First Baptist Church Mt Vernon. There will be a reception afterward for a time of fellowship and visiting with the family.



DADE PHELAN

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members & Staff
87th Legislature

FROM: Office of the Speaker

DATE: July 11, 2022

SUBJECT: **The Honorable Tom Ramsay**

The Honorable Thomas Donald "Tom" Ramsay passed away July 9, 2022. Ramsay represented Camp, Cass, Franklin, Marion, Morris, Red River, Titus, and Wood Counties in the Texas House from 1992-2003. Details regarding arrangements are as follows:

Memorial Service
Friday, July 22 at 2 PM
First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon
319 South Kaufman Street
Mount Vernon, Texas 75457

We extend our sincerest condolences to Representative Ramsay's family.